GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:803
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Geothermal Power Plant Projects
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of geothermal power plant projects being implemented in the country, state-wise:

(b) whether the Government is aware of the potential of geothermal energy, especially in colder Himalayan terrains, in providing efficient centralized heating:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is furthering its investment in geothermal energy in terms of Research and Development or setting up of a new plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): There is no geothermal power plant under implementation at present in the country.
(b)&(c): Yes, The Government is aware of low/medium geothermal potential of the country based on assessment of preliminary geothermal exploration studies carried out by agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Geo-physical Research Institute (NGRI), Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) and the same can be utilized for providing centralized heating system in colder Himalayan terrains like Puga & Chumantang in J&K. However, due to high altitude, difficult terrain, harsh weather conditions, very short working period, difficulty in evacuation of power and high capital cost the projects have not been techno-economically viable.
(d)&(e): Yes. The Government extends financial assistance under R&D demonstration to projects subject to having proper justification of benefits accrued out of the projects.
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